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New BLM office opens to the public

MONTE VISTA, Colo. – The new Bureau of Land Management building for the San Luis Valley Field Office is now officially open to the public. The new building is at 1313 E. Highway 160 in Monte Vista.

"We would like to thank the City of Monte Vista and Rio Grande County for their support during the planning and construction of the new building," said Field Manager Andrew Archuleta. "The community has been especially welcoming and we look forward to building on those relationships as we serve the San Luis Valley from our new building."

The new building consolidates three offices into one, reducing the overall footprint of the office and improving the efficiency of operations. Consolidating the offices will improve customer service by providing a "one-stop-shop" for products such as maps, permits and information about BLM-managed public lands.

The BLM San Luis Valley Field Office manages slightly more than 500,000 acres of your public lands in Colorado's Rio Grande Basin. The landscape includes eight Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, four Special Recreation Management Areas, more than 400 miles of designated routes and countless opportunities to enjoy your public lands.

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.